What Does Homecoming 2014 Have to do with Booksigning

Sarah Kimakwa, *Andrews University*
Edgar Burgara, *Andrews University*
At the beginning of our mentoring relationship, Philip examined all of my work very carefully and explained why, when I made an error.

Philip has continued to mentor me and makes sure that I understand how to use the cataloging tools: RDA, the new cataloging standard and its relationship to the old rules, AACR2; Library of Congress Subject Headings; the Library of Congress Classification schedules; Online Classweb; and our local cataloging practices. He encourages me to ask questions to clarify my understanding. He has included other staff members by offering training sessions that give us all the information and skills needed to catalog library materials.

As a mentor, Philip gives me constant feedback “You have improved,” “You have done well.” This has given me encouragement and strengthened my spirit. As I have become more confident and able to do this work, Philip has allowed me to work with less supervision. One of my tasks is to catalog books that are published in languages other than English. After we created some templates to help identify the cataloging information and I had spent time practicing, Philip decided that I no longer need to submit my work to him.

Philip has pushed me to more and more complicated cataloging. Some of the materials were new challenges for me: board games, jigsaw puzzles, kits, and multiple authored works. Now I am not afraid to tackle any format or complexity of cataloging work. My confidence has been increased. Now Philip has given me the task of checking the student clerks copy cataloging tasks.

In addition to the one-on-one mentoring and staff training sessions, Philip holds monthly cataloging meetings to clarify and formalize the cataloging practices and procedures in the James White library. We all know the preferred local cataloging methods for the James White Library. Philip also sets a good example with his attitude towards work and in handling interpersonal relationships.

Philip is only one of the library faculty who engage in mentoring in the James White Library. Kathy Demsky, the architecture librarian, Lauren Matacio, instruction librarian, Terry Robinson, the seminary librarian, Silas Marques, Cynthia Helms, Reference librarians, Larry Onsager, Dean of the library and others have taken the initiative to mentor, subordinates, co-workers and students.

I feel that the one-on-one mentoring and coaching is an effective method for training catalogers. I am grateful to have Philip Tan as a professional mentor.

Xioming Xu is a cataloger at James White Library, Andrew University (xu@andrews.edu)

What Does Homecoming 2014 Have To Do with Book Signing?

Sarah Kimakwa and Edgar Burgara

Hafiz Ally, a Master of Divinity student at Andrews, was surprised when he stopped into the James White Library (JWL) on September 26, 2014. He had been invited to the book signing of his fellow classmate Margaret Thomas. Prior to his arrival, he envisioned Thomas sitting alone at a table with several people in line next to a velvet rope, waiting for their turn to have their book signed. What he actually saw was far from typical. It was the full-fledged Alumni Book Signing & Display with 17 authors present.

This book signing event was part of our campus-wide Alumni Homecoming weekend festivities. Aside from the book signing, alumni participated in an orchestral concert, a parade and flag raising, a basketball game, the Harvest Run, and other activities.

The Alumni Book Signing & Display, an event organized by Andrews’ James White Library, Office of Alumni Services, and School of Graduate Studies & Research, sought to celebrate

Volume 34, number 1  41  Fall 2014
and showcase the authors and published works of Andrews Alumni. “James White, one of the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist church, was a major advocate of books,” said Sarah Kimakwa, Marketing and Reference Librarian and coordinator of the event. “At the James White Library, we are trying to highlight how Andrews alumni are spreading the gospel through publishing.”

The Library Dean, Larry Onsager, was very satisfied with the results of the event. “We saw students stopping and interacting with the authors and with the alumni, and authors interacting with each other,” said Onsager. “For alumni it was a great time for sharing information about what they are doing, their scholarship, and an opportunity for other types of networking.” The library statistics had a record number of patrons as compared to any other “preparation day” of the week.

At the event, hands of friendly alumni authors extended to greet visitors. Their smiles welcomed those who entered the library lobby where each author sat at their table, decorated by the author and displaying a distinct personality. The alumni authors included current faculty members, current students, and those who travelled in from outside the immediate community.

The genres of books ranged from biographical encyclopedias to faith-building stories for children and youth. Some books testified of deliverance from deep struggles and hardship, while others presented the latest scholarly research. Though the diversity was abundant, the books were in harmony in the uplifting messages they expressed.

Doris Ferris, one of the authors, was motivated to participate in the signing to advance the work that her late husband Winston Ferris started. Timetta Wilson, a 2005 graduate and a current Master of Science in Administration student, shared her work containing poetic expression of personal stories. She uses analogies, such as that of an old violin, to describe an individual in whom very few had faith. “It was good exposure because you get to mix and mingle with other people that have written,” said Wilson. This was her first book signing with such a diverse range of authors. “I was very excited to be invited to participate in such a grand occasion.” Ms. Wilson envisions this event taking place every year. The event rekindled her memories from sharing her first poetry CD, Healing Streams for the Soul, as a guest on 3ABN Network in 2001. That opportunity led to invitations to minister all over the world, and was the main inspiration to write and publish a poetry anthology, Standing in the Mid-Air of Faith.

After the success of this year’s event, we look forward to connecting Andrews readers and authors with each other in events like these in years to come.

Sarah Kimakwa is Marketing and Reference Librarian and Edgar Burgara is Marketing Assistant at James White Library, Andrews University

---

**Book Reviews**


Reviewed by Bernard Helms

I approached this book expecting another *Three Cups of Tea*. By the end of the book I was still thirsty. My preconceptions about the book were all wrong. *Three Cups of Tea* is the story of Greg Mortenson’s experiences building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. *Promise of a Pencil* focuses on lessons Adam Braun learned while developing the nonprofit organization Pencils of Promise.

During Adam’s sophomore year at Brown University he wandered into a dorm room where he watched the video *Barack* which had a life changing impact on him. He realized that life is not about conforming to the expectations of